EC apologises for voter register mess

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KAMPALA. The Electoral Commission has apologised for having an extra number of voters on the national voters register, a matter that has brought the register's integrity to question five days to the February 18 polls.

"We apologise for an error. We are humans. The figure of 15,297,197 was the total number of registered voters prior to the display and cleaning up of the register. The total of 15,297,197 as reflected on our website a few days ago and has since been corrected was inclusive of the number of recorded persons that had been identified for removal, which was an error," Mr Kiggundu said on Friday while addressing a press conference at the EC head office in Kampala.

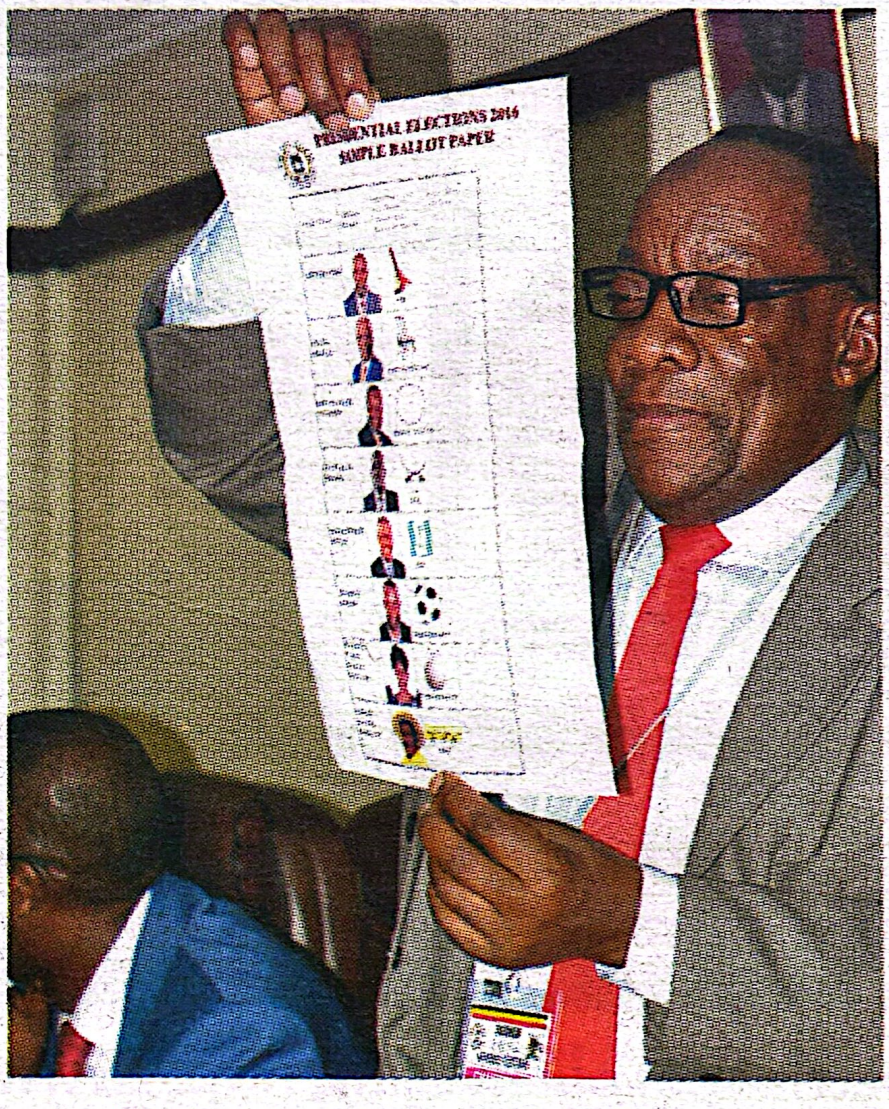
An expose by Ms Evelyn Namara and Mr Javie Ssozi brought the matter to the limelight, prompting the EC to respond immediately.

Dr Kiggundu explained that after the display, a total of 20,000 people were legally removed from the national voters register and the final copy had been issued to presidential candidates with the correct number of 15, 277,198 registered voters.

In a statement issued yesterday, the Citizens Coalition for Electoral Democracy (CCEDU), an election observer group, blamed the EC for not handling the issue of the register properly.

Mr Kiggundu also issued what he called a final warning to candidates to stop campaigning beyond the stipulated 6pm deadline.

The commission also unveiled a dummy of how the presidential ballot paper will look like on polling day.



EC chairman Badru Kiggundu displays a dummy sample of the presidential ballot papers for the 2016 general election at the Electoral Commission headquarters yesterday. PHOTO BY RACHEAL AJWANG

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